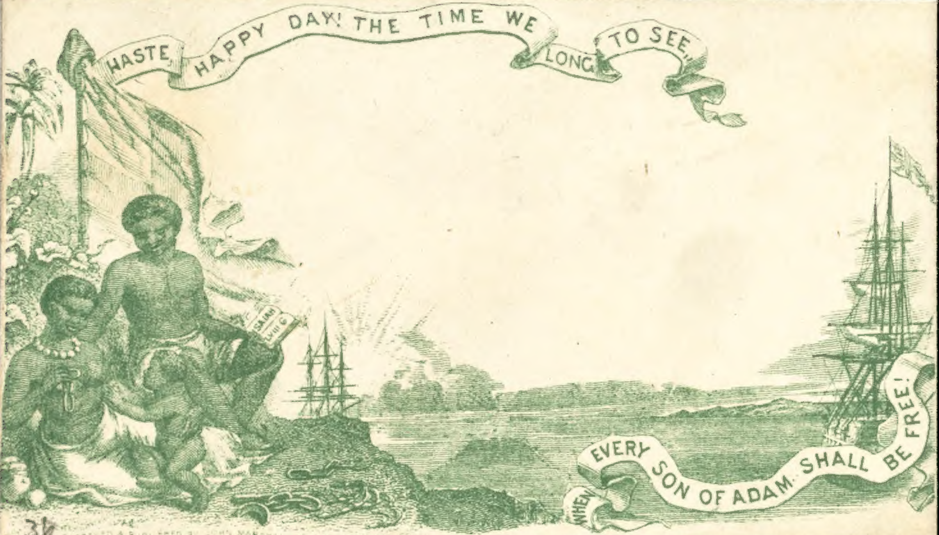
HASTE, HAPPY DAY! THE TIME WE LONG TO SEE,
ISAIAH LVIII 6
WHEN EVERY SON OF ADAM SHALL BE FREE!

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ENGRAVED & PUBLISHED BY JOHN MARSHALL, 10 ALBION STREET,

Ms.A.9.2.26,27

Miss Weston

Dublin, April 23. 1852

My dear Friend, I got your letter today, about an hour since while I was in the middle of a fuss about sending off "Antonio, &c" to Mrs Chapman by a gentleman of my acquaintance who comes to Dublin in about half an hour, ~~and~~ starts at once for England & France, and hopes to be in Paris tomorrow evening. As he undertakes to give the book into Mrs Chapman's own hands or the hands of some of the family, I don't like to lose the opportunity.

I also send you a copy of my Pamphlet, the first made up of the complete printed essay, after an amount of reading, revision, remodelling, correction, and supervision of which I am perfectly weary. It began as a labour of love and turned out a serious responsibility — for I felt the importance of the opportunity of saying my say, and saying it properly — so as to avoid all reasonable cavil, and to make

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the blow felt. The name of Miss Estlin might with great propriety be placed with mine on the title page, and the whole affair has been transposed by her suggestion into the form in which you now see it, so as to make all tight & snug. Some hard things I omitted by the desire of Mr Estlin and others. I know my own vehemence as compared with most anti-slavery people in their countries, and wished to reach (and not repel) my audience as far as possible. You will see I ~~su~~ substituted Tappan — on the objection ~~that~~ (which was just) that the thing about him looked like mere scandal brought in for spite. I have sometimes done violence to my own indignation in the desire to present my case fairly, and if I have not succeeded it has been certainly not for want of most anxious pains taking. I removed the very last allusion to Mrs Chapman, by taking out the words "my friend" from Charles Sumner's name, so that no one can say Mrs C. is meant.

The whole expense is borne by Mr E. and myself and he has come down for the lion's share of the cost. Indeed, but for his handsome offer, I wd not have gone to the extent I have done — I don't think much less would have ~~[illegible]~~ answered.

I also send you the first copy of Sumner's admirable Reply which although admirable, omits many things that are more fitly said by a Cis-Atlantic citizen.

You ask me to write something more flowery than prose for the next Bell. I wish I could. But I could not, and cannot. Some days ago, looking over an album of my cousin Lizzy Addey's (formerly Lizzy Poole) I met with some hundreds of lines of occasional verses written by me in the days about 15 years ago. I could no more write the same now, than I could fly. I had forgotten them almost entirely and I liked them so well that I asked Lizzy to copy them for me into a book of Mrs Webb's that I may have them to show to you & Emma when you come. They are nonsense verses you know, but lively, "youthful", a little poetical, well put together, without much depth. This is egotistical, but I am not at all afraid of you.

Within the last week or so, we had the company of a Mrs H. M. Tracy of Columbus, Ohio, exactly one of the "strong minded" "women" that Punch ridicules. She lectures on temperance & physiology wears a waistcoat, is anti slavery but much more American. ~~[illegible]~~ a lively pleasant woman, very vain & very amusing. She was one of a class I had never seen before, unless I include Mrs Richardson, who was very disagreeable. Mrs Tracy was not, though not very refined. She knew very little of any part of the States but her own district.

For the last fortnight we have had great worry and some anxiety with our youngest child, a girl of about 13,

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who has had a very sore eye — Miss Estlin says it is often the case and has most kindly invited Mrs Webb to bring her to Bristol, & and stay with them while she takes her in charge; and Miss Estlin ~~[illegible]~~ has pressed the invitation as if she had been our sister which indeed I feel her to be. The newspapers & packages & letters & so forth to and fro from Bristol for the last month have been incessant — I never had such a hearty wish to do, till I came into intercourse with these hard working & very admirable & excellent people.

There is a pamphlet of Miss E's own compilation which I have not ready to send you — a compilation of the Rev. S. May's tribute ~~of~~ to the abolitionists compiled from the Reports & other A.S. papers. This I put into type & sent a first proof ~~of~~ yesterday.

our poor child has suffered a good deal — has to keep a dark room — & is there without medical attendance. His mother's time is much taken up with the house full of guests at the Friends' Yearly Meeting

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It was very difficult and tedious but the trouble was compensated by the pleasure of working with such people for such a purpose.

I should say that Mr E. & I both took the responsibility of omitting some very hard cases of [illegible], which would be generally looked upon as mere scandals, spite or extravagant hostility. We must suit our audience & much which is true to us, would be pure falsehood to them.

I expect to be censured for what I have done in my own translation, in this way. But I know I have done for the best and I have some confidence in my own judgment. What I think too strong for English ears, must be too strong.

these extracts is called or is likely to be called

"The Am. Anti Slavery Society
portrayed by
its Opponents & its Friends."

It makes an octavo pamphlet of 10 pages of small type with 3 pages of introductory & explanatory remarks — in all 13 —

As to all the praise you have given my efforts I need not tell you that with the exception of my wife's good opinion there is no expression of approbation I prize more than that of Mrs Chapman & her sisters — Could you put me in the way of getting a copy of the 1st & 2nd part of "Right & Wrong in Boston"

In great haste ever
most truly yours

Richd D Webb

Monday -16th. — I finished this letter and made up my packet on Saturday and set off to the Railway Station to meet my Limerick friend - but after waiting an hour he did not come. I afterwards found I had been misinformed that he does not pass through till tomorrow. Yesterday morning I gave Miss Estlin Thomas another very thorough reading so as to be ready for her returned proof from Bristol this morning. And I hope to be able to send you a copy tomorrow. I would like you to see all three together. We have varied the imprints, by permission, so as to prevent the public from seeing that all came from the one press. I have not at all the same sanguine spirit that the Estlins possess. They rely much more than I do or have done for many years past upon the possibility of convincing people to any purpose. They think they have a hopeful set of converts about them - but take away the Estlins and what would become of Bristol anti Slavery for any practical purpose. Nevertheless I like to see others sanguine & hopeful and I admit that they are by far the most useful and valuable people - and I rejoice to fight under them. In my secret soul I am of the same way of thinking as a witty friend of mine one of the Shackletons you have heard me speak of, who says he is sure the world is improving that if we come back in 20,000 years we shall doubtless see a decided change for the better.

This is the Friends Yearly Meeting time in Dublin. We have our house full of guests. Ann Webbs mother, aunt, sister, brother, and sister in law - My father and step mother On account of the childs illness we are rather more pressed for room than usual - so that I sleep in great state in a sort of lumber room - And furthermore I am not without hope of Sarah Pugh joining us before the Meeting is over for it lasts a week. I had a note from her asking were we willing she should come see us - and we replied pressing her warmly - But ~~and only~~ I also wrote to Miss Estlin as you meant to do, saying she should by no means let Sarah Pugh go home without seeing her in Bristol and I got a letter of hearty thanks for the hint - an

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Almond a find chil her to Risk a dash worn — & th

I am in hopes that between all your manoeuvring and Miss Sarah will see the Bristol people and they will see her. I said in my note to Miss Estlin that in making this proposal to her I was only doing what I would be most thankful for her to do with me in a similar case— and she responded so harmoniously that I feel no compunction for my little freedom— though I have often felt my ears hot when I remembered my visit to Miss Martineau. However I think Miss M. is a generous woman and don't keep spite.

Talking of the infection powers of Quakerism my cousin Lizzy so often cited was a remarkable instance of rebellion against it. My uncle and aunt were— the latter is a rigid Quaker and the training was uncomfortable. Lizzy always resisted and at last "married out"— she says there is a blessing in marrying out. She is a poetess and has more of the poetic temperament than any one with whom I have ever had much personal acquaintance. Her fibre and nervous temperament are also very "fine"— she is no scholar— an indiscriminate reader— nervous— timid and not in the least pedantic— she abhors Quakerism— and dreads Co. of Wexford Quakers particularly— her own county people— because they are so primitive & Quakerly— though very friendly kind good people. Her own sister is one of the most extreme of Quakers.

I attended part of one of their meetings for worship yesterday and the whole of the other. I hardly ever go to a meeting now— and the farther off I stand, the more I am astonished at the stuff that sensible educated people swallow down with absorbed looks as the dictates of inspiration. Hannah called last evening's sermon from one of the Preachers— a North Countryman— as "a pouring forth of slop that might go on for ever," without beginning, middle, or end. It is wonderfully stupid and tiresome

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Eliza Wigham called here on Saturday and had a long talk with Mary Webb. I have not seen her yet. I saw her sister Mary yesterday who is the Secretary of the Ladies Society here - and a staunch advocate of the American Society as is ~~her~~ Eliza and her Stepmother Wm Smeals sister. So is little Mrs Smeal. I have a degree of admiration for Scotch people who stand true beyond what you can comprehend. The Scotch are so orthodox and so dreadfully bigotted. From all I hear of them I believe the presbyterian laity are more so than the Roman Catholic laity. The clergy are about the same or better. Eliza Wigham is what Mrs Chapman once called her "a pretty lady" with a very sweet face - and she is as good as she is sweet - and in that I admire her very much though I never had much intimacy with her. Among some papers she brought on Saturday was a book on the Baptist Missions & Secession that came via Miss Estlin from E. Mathews, price 5/- I turned over the leaves and saw no mention of Colors. - Miss Estlin has explained to me that the Free Will Baptists are not to be mistaken for the Founders of the Baptist Free Mission who are Calvinists - the former are I believe Arminian and in Parker Pillsburys opinion are very little of abolitionists. I do not know what to think of Mathews. I am always prepared to expect that a mans sectarianism will swallow up his anti-slavery - and I dont think there is safety for an abolitionist except in standing outside the sects. For myself since I formally resigned my membership I feel much more free and honest than I did before.

The box of Liberty Bells, Reports & so forth that came this week was enormous. The duty alone was ~~of something of~~ about £7. It would seem to me that between the cost of what you send and the duty in transmitting it your British contributions are a heavy charge to you - and Mr Estlin and myself are both concerned about it

Besides going to meeting, and reading Miss E's proofs, I also read "Antoine" - the French copy - Mr Webb read the English one before which I have not yet done. She likes the story, and the translation. The former she fears is rather French for English taste - and the latter has some little roughnesses that could be softened in the proofs. I think I would send some passages that strike me as rather high flying. I do not see what could be better done than for Madame Van de Weyer who is a person of position to call on Cundall of New Bond Street - the aristocratic Childrens Bookseller and lay the MSS. before him. He might pay the price and bring out the book in a style commensurate with the taste of his customers. There is something in the way a thing like this is introduced - and a great deal of the value of such a book for the trade would depend on the manner of getting up. I retain the manuscript - which I can forward to Emma when she goes to London - at any time for 6^d - We can now send any book or MSS. not a letter for 6^d per lb by post. I think it better not to miss a good opportunity of getting the precious French volume out of my hands. Has any thing come of the French memoir of Miss Edgeworth that was talked of when I was in Paris - or is the idea given up - for this I also heard was the case.

27th – I worked very hard this morning to add one of Miss Estlin's pamphlets to my packet.

I also send a copy of my friend Elizabeth Shackleton's memoir of her aunt Leadbeater ~~to~~ that I mentioned to you in Paris. Only 100 were printed & I thought it a very feeling & affecting notice at the time it was written. I knew Mrs. L. well & she was all she is described.

Miss Estlin is confined to bed by her labours & has been writing to me from that quiet retreat for some time past. She desires me to apologise to you for not writing but she is as busy as a bee about A. S. work all the time. This job of hers has been a very difficult one for me & has caused me great anxiety in the endeavour to meet her views & understand her ~~#~~ directions at such a distance & from very disjointed materials. I pretty wonder at her devotion & energy amidst so much bodily weakness.

Our poor child still in bed – and almost deprived of sight. She takes her mother's in a [illegible] & I fear her illness is the result of weakness & an enfeebled constitution. But she is obstinate against animal food & I fear nobody. – But I must be done

I wish to answer till I hear of the books safe arrival – as I act without authority in sending it on to Paris.

I had one or two pleasant scraps of letters from your sister Anne lately.

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